

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE):

Programs to Strengthen Marriages and Families

## SUPPORTING HEALTHY MARRIAGE

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this project is to inform program operators and policymakers of the most effective ways to help couples to strengthen and maintain their marriages.

The research team works in partnership with state and local officials in eight selected sites, assisting in the design and implementation of marriage skills programs for low-income married couples or those planning to marry. Key evaluation components: providing technical assistance to develop programs and selecting evaluation sites; documenting and analyzing program implementation, and conducting impact analysis.

Research shows that low-income couples have higher divorce rates than wealthier couples, and face challenges to maintain healthy marriages. Low income families are consequently less likely to receive the benefits of healthy marriages. This project is an important opportunity to learn how best to assist low income couples to fulfill their aspirations for a healthy, stable marriage and a strong family.

CONTRACTOR: MDRC; subcontractors: Abt Associates, Child Trends, Optimal Solutions Group, and McFarland and Associates.

PROJECT PERIOD: September 2003 to September 2012

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